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INFILTRATION BID FOILED ALONG LOC IN J&K; ONE ULTRA KILLED

SRINAGAR: The Army on Thursday foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir, killing one terrorist. A defence spokesman said a search operation was launched in the morning, following which a body was recovered. An AK series rifle, one light automatic weapon, six magazines, two grenades and a large quantity of war-like stores were recovered.

CHHATTISGARH
THE AGRICULTURAL FRONTIER

Reviving Tradition:

Millets were once part of the state's daily diet. The Chhattisgarh Government is helping to bring the small cereal grains back

Millet On Wheels Takes Off

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off the state's first mobile millet cafe Millet on Wheels at Kharsia in Raigarh district in January. Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu were also present on the occasion. Chief Minister Baghel cut a cake made of ragi on the occasion. Appreciating this initiative, he said that it would increase awareness among the people to include millet dishes in their meals. He extended his best wishes to the women's SHG operating the mobile cafe.

Dishes made from ragi, kodo, and kutki will be served in this cafe. It will be run by Anubhav SHG. Dishes served in the mobile millet café include ragi cheela, dosa, ragi paratha, idli, ragi manchurian, pizza, kodo ki biryani and cookies. The Millet Mission has been launched by the Chief Minister to encourage the production and consumption of coarse grains. The year 2023 is to be observed as International Millet Year at the international level.

Kodo, kutki, ragi are being procured in Chhattisgarh at the support price

Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country where production and consumption of millets are being promoted continuously under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The Chhattisgarh Government is procuring kodo, kutki and ragi at the support price. With this initiative, the area under millets in Chhattisgarh has increased by one and a half times and production has also increased significantly. On the initiative of the Chief Minister, special lunch was organised in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly for the MLAs and the media to promote dishes made from millets. In Chhattisgarh, the biggest processing plant of millets has also been set up at Nathiya-Nawagaon in Kanker district. Millet processing plants are being set up in rural industrial parks as well.

Centuries-old consumption patterns are being revived again

For many generations, small cereal grains like ragi and kodo were a major part of our diet. But over a period of time, the consumption of these grains became less and less popular despite these grains being rich in many nutrients that are essential for health. The State Government is taking important steps to encourage consumption of these grains in the daily diet. The Millet Cafe is one of the many initiatives taken by Chhattisgarh Government in this direction.

Women entrepreneurship is getting a boost

This cafe was started at the initiative and with the cooperation of the district administration and is being operated by the Vikas Sangh Women's Group. The Women and Child Development Department and the Transforming Rural India Foundation is providing the technical support. Through this millet-based cafe, women self-employment and entrepreneurship is also being promoted.

Chhattisgarh's MLAs get a taste of millets

Ragi soup, ragi pakoras, kodo bhajiya, bajra and jaggery puye, kutki ke fara and cheela as starters? That was on the menu when Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel hosted special luncheon for all the state MLAs with dishes made from millet. In the m--ain course, everyone relished bajra kadhi, lal bhaji, jimmi kanda, kodo vegetarian pulao, jowar, bajra, ragi ki roti and paratha. For those with a sweet tooth there was desserts kodo dry fruits kheer with ragi and kutki cupcake and ragi halwa.

Millet dishes to be served in Anganwadi and mid-day meals

Processing centres have been set up at the local level to promote the processing of millet in Chhattisgarh. Also, a millet processing centre of 5,000 tonnes capacity has been set up in the private sector at Kanker district, which is Asia's largest millet processing unit. Millet dishes including cookies, laddoos and soya chikki have also been included in Anganwadi and mid-day meals in the state.

Chhattisgarh's millet diplomacy

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has sent millet hampers across the country with greetings and best wishes for Makar Sankranti. The Chief Minister has sent millet hampers to Union Ministers and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chief ministers across the country, artists, writers, media persons, eminent personalities of the film industry and political personalities.

Prime Minister appreciates Millet Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently appreciated Chhattisgarh's Millet Mission. He advised Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to open more Millet Cafes in Raipur. The Millet Mission was launched in the state on December 1, 2021, with the objective to promote the cultivation of millets such as kodo, kutki, ragi to promote the processing of millets and to include millets in the daily diet to eradicate malnutrition. Through the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association, procurement is being done by fixing the minimum purchase price of kodo, kutki and ragi in the state.

Millet Mission gathers honours

The state of Chhattisgarh has also bagged the national-level Poshak Anaj Award 2022 for promoting the cultivation of millets. To promote millet production in the state, it has been included in the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Millets-producing farmers are also being provided assistance of Rs 9,000 per acre as an incentive.

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